

Comments of the
Smaller Manufacturers Association
The New Haven Manufacturers Association
METAL

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

March 2, 2010

Room 1E

In opposition to
Raised Bill 243 An Act Concerning Unemployment Benefits for
Those Who Become Disabled While Unemployed

The Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA), The New Haven Manufacturers Association (NHMA) and METAL a Bridgeport based small manufacturers association collectively represent over 300 companies and 13,000 employees strongly oppose Raised Bill 243 An Act Concerning Unemployment Benefits for Those Who Become Disabled While Unemployed.

It can not be the responsibility of Connecticut's already hard pressed employers to provide additional benefits to workers who become injured or disabled while already unemployed and engaged in non-work related activities. While Connecticut's employers are sympathetic to workers who are actively seeking reemployment there is a limit to the resources available to them. This bill represents another costly mandate on businesses here in Connecticut. With the current economic climate already placing many businesses here in CT in the unfortunate position of having to reduce their workforce or shorten hours for employees, any increased costs will further reduce the viability of many businesses. With the current increase in the unemployment rate the funds available in the state Unemployment Compensation (UC) Fund are already insufficient to meet the demand. The state is already looking at new proposals to repay the Federal government the \$1 billion in loans it received to stabilize the UC Fund and insure the UC Fund's solvency. This plan will be accomplished with an increased cost to all of Connecticut's employers. A further expansion of benefits will simply increase the amount that employers will have to pay to ensure the solvency of the UC Fund. The additional costs that SB 243 would result in will slow Connecticut's economic recovery, and further limit Connecticut employers' ability to recover from the current recession, expand their businesses and increase their workforce.

Connecticut already has lagged behind the rest of the country in job creation and another bill that paints Connecticut as unfriendly to business is bad policy for the state, its employers and their employees. Please reject Raised Bill 243 An Act Concerning Unemployment Benefits for Those Who Become Disabled While Unemployed.